

REMARKS

The applicant has canceled the original claims 1-6 and added the new claims 7-16. The new claims 7-16 have been formulated to overcome the Examiner's objection to claims 1-6 and the rejection of claims 1-6 under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112.

The new claim 7 is an independent claim and the new claims 8-16 depend therefrom.

The new independent claim 7 specifies a holder having first and second ends, as well as first and second sections, which respectively include the first and second ends. The first section comprises first ribs running in a direction from one end of the holder to the other and second ribs running transverse to the first ribs. The second section comprises a plurality of additional ribs which again run in a direction from one end of the holder to the other, and the second section is free of a plurality of ribs running transverse to the additional ribs.

For the sake of clarity, the applicant will briefly outline one manner of operation of the exemplary filter holder illustrated in the applicant's drawings. With the filter holder oriented as in Fig. 1, the suction end of a hose connected to a spray pump is passed through the ring 7 and positioned so that the hose rests on the support 11. The ring 7 is expandable and contractible in order to allow the filter holder to be used with hoses of different diameter. A commercial filter in the form of a bag with a drawstring at its open end is drawn over the section of the filter holder with the crisscrossing ribs 5,6 and then pulled over the section of the filter holder with the ribs 2. The drawstring of the filter bag is thereupon tied around the hose above the ring 7 and the

assembly of filter holder, filter bag and hose end is placed in a container of fluid. The spray pump is now ready for use.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to take note of the simplicity of operation.

The applicant respectfully points out that the ribs 2,5,6 of the filter holder prevent the filter bag from collapsing and losing its functionality. Moreover, the Examiner's attention is respectfully drawn to the fact that the particular configuration of the filter holder shown in the drawings is advantageous. In this regard, the Examiner will observe that the section of the filter holder with the crisscrossing ribs 5,6 narrows in a direction away from the section with the ribs 2. Similarly, the section of the filter holder with the ribs 2 narrows in a direction away from the section with the crisscrossing ribs 5,6. It has been found that this configuration causes the fluid in a container to exert a substantial downward force on the filter holder thereby inhibiting movement which could adversely affect operation.

Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,858,234 to Sukun. The applicant believes that the new claims 7-16 are not anticipated.

Sukun discloses a strainer 10 which comprises a cage 12 and a cover 14. The cage 12, which has an open end 18 and a closed end 20, includes a plurality of ribs 28 which extend from the closed end 20 to the open end 18. The cage 12 further includes a plurality of bands 22,22a,22b which extend transverse to the ribs 28. The closed end 20 of the cage 12 is formed by concentric rings 24 connected to the lowermost band 22b by spokes 26. The cover 14 of the strainer 10, which is

receivable in the open end 18 of the cage 12, includes a cylindrical hub 34 provided with ribs 35a which run circumferentially of the hub 34 and are designed to grip a hose placed on the hub 34. The cover 14 further includes a flange 39 which is mounted on the hub 34 and comprises radial spokes 38 extending away from the hub 34.

The applicant's claims call for a holder having: (i) a first section which includes a first end of the holder as well as crisscrossing ribs; and (ii) a second section which includes a second end of the holder as well as additional ribs but is free of a plurality of ribs crisscrossing the additional ribs. The strainer 10 of Sukun lacks a section which corresponds to the second section of the claims, and the applicant is accordingly of the opinion that the new claims 7-16 are not anticipated by the reference.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,488,846 to Marangi. The Examiner states that Fig. 6B of Marangi shows a filter receptacle while Fig. 6A of the reference shows a suction pipe 12.

Considering Fig. 6B of Marangi, the reference illustrates a filter support frame 24A having an open upper end and a closed lower end. The lower end of the filter support frame 24A is provided with an abutment 46' for a filter mounted on the support frame 24A. Crisscrossing vertical and horizontal ribs between the upper end and lower end of the filter support frame 24A define openings 42' for the passage of fluid.

As noted previously, the applicant's claims call for a holder having: (i) a first section which includes a first end of the holder as well as crisscrossing ribs; and (ii) a second section which includes a second end of the holder as well as additional ribs but is free of a plurality of ribs crisscrossing the additional ribs. The filter support frame 24A of Marangi is devoid of a section which corresponds to the second section of the claims, and the applicant therefore believes that claims 7-16 are not anticipated by Marangi.

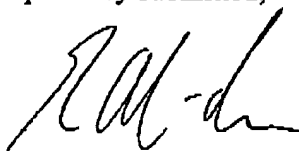
Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Sukun in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,468,383 to McKenzie. McKenzie is applied to teach a ring-like spring 20.

This rejection would appear to apply to the new claim 15 which sets forth an expandable and contractible ring-like element. In regard to the rejection, the applicant respectfully points out that Sukun discloses the cage 12 of the strainer 10 as being substantially rigid (column 2, lines 14-16 of the reference). Hence, the applicant fails to see how one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to include the highly flexible, ring-like spring 20 of McKenzie in the strainer 10 of Sukun. In the applicant's opinion, no motivation exists so that claim 15 does not become obvious from Sukun taken with McKenzie.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the claims, as well as the rejections of the claims, be withdrawn.

Please charge any cost associated with this response to our Deposit Account No.17-0055. In this regard, please note that a Petition for a 1-month Extension of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136(a) was previously filed in the Patent and Trademark Office. The Petition, dated 21 April 2006, was accompanied by a check in the amount of \$60.00 to cover the fee for the 1-month extension.

Respectfully submitted,



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